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*Ottawa Outlook, …nee North Hero News and World Review …. Mostly stuff no one else would print.*

*Monday, February 1st,*

**Lists**

The further along one gets in life the more important ‘Lists’ become. By your eighties they are an obsession. We’ve four categories of ‘List’: (Should list be singular or plural?), The 365 part *“Golden Retriever Engagement Calendar”,* the daily ‘To Do List’, “Postits” and our brand new “*Newcomers to Canada DayPlanner”*. Actually, our 3x3 Postits are called Stikits, we generally opt for yellow, … but we digress. Lucile keeps track of all important happenings on the first mentioned, like Birthdays, Hair appointments, Anniversaries, Hair appointments, Doctor & Dental visits, Bailey Medication and, oh yes, Hair appointments. Then there are: The Opening Night Theatre Engagements, Formal Dinners, Cocktail Parties and Trips Abroad.\* The ToDos pertain to everyday activities and incubate a majority of the Postit/Stikits. *“Newcomers to Canada DayPlanner”,* a gift from Norman, has been in our possession two days and will be put in use as of today.

ToDos are produced first thing each morning, hand written on the back of old Email printouts and put on a clipboard. They usually consist of around ten to twelve items which will be completed that day. (See above asterisk.) If we end up with an unlucky 13, we just add another walk. Perhaps, … a sample ToDo List.

Friday, January 22nd.

Walk.

Exercise. (20 rotations, I know the date is the 22nd but we don’t go past 20).

Draft plans for new shelves: Insulator collection, Toy soldiers, Books.

Put up the kitchen storm window.

Make soup. (Which one are we up to? Italian Wedding I think.)

Check wine batch #28, Chardonnay.

Practice piano.

Inbox/Old records: Sort & File.

Check Email.

Produce Mart.

Phone calls.

Walk.

There, pretty representative. Now an item like *“Produce Mart”* causes a Postit/Stikit note to be attached to the ToDo List. This will later be transferred to a wallet, which is hard to go shopping without and then, in the store, stuck on the handle of the shopping cart. Wallet with license, car and house keys are easy remembrance items. Glasses? Eeh, … even when they are not forgotten, it’s hard to read ingredients and we refuse to carry our magnifying glasses. Post shopping, forgetting to remove the Postit/Stikit allows the next user of the cart to know exactly what you will be eating that week, but who cares. As tasks are done they are checked. Some items on the list, in all honesty, are there just to make the listee look good. Listee, Lister? Doesn’t matter, same person. For example, … walks. There is no way the day will not contain two walks. An 80 pound dog in ones lap and licking an ear is hard to ignore. Lastly, once the clipboard has been put down, some surreptitious additions may mysteriously appear in a slightly different but familiar handwriting. Incubated Postit/Stikits for Email/phone calls are stuck on their related hardware. A complete efficient, memory jogging system. Right? Well, … perhaps a look at the heading of the following Sunday’s ToDo list would be interesting.

Friday, January 22nd. Saturday, January 23rd Sunday, January 24th.

Right, same list. The Postit/Stikits for the emails & phone calls are gone, but the items are not checked off. There are more surreptitious items and a few ‘comments’ which seem to indicate a slight difference of opinion regarding some of the checks. Oh well, no system is perfect and at least we know exactly what we didn’t do. The last added entry on January 24th, *… “Snailmail monthly letter”* (Mail takes a week to get to the States*)*. And just think, no need for visitors to come in and say, *: “Hi, what’cha been up to lately?”*  They can just pick up the clipboard and scan it. Hey, holds down idle chatter.

This letter is being composed in a nice neat office. No packing crates, bare inbox, clean desktop. Hooray!.. Plus, …we finally found time to splurge on the one gala, extravaganza that we’d promised ourselves.

We bought all new underwear. (Was on Wednesday, January 20th ‘List’ I think.)

Yours for better ‘Lists’,

Lucile, Bailey & Ken.

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**\* Editors note: Ha, Ha!**